

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed September 15, 2003. Independent claims 1, 10, 18, 26, 32, and 39 have been amended to further clarify the scope of the claimed invention. Further consideration of the present case is earnestly requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (US 6,553,431, "Yamamoto"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The currently amended claim 1 recites:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for propagating type information for hardware device nodes in a graphical program, wherein the method operates in a computer including a display screen and a user input device, the method comprising:

displaying on the screen a first hardware device node in the graphical program in response to user input, wherein the graphical program comprises a plurality of interconnected nodes or icons, wherein the plurality of interconnected nodes or icons visually indicate functionality of the program;

associating the first hardware device node with a hardware device;

displaying on the screen a second hardware device node in the graphical program in response to user input;

connecting the first hardware device node to the second hardware device node in response to user input;

propagating information from the first hardware device node to the second hardware device node, wherein the information specifies the hardware device with which the first hardware device node is associated, wherein said propagating occurs in response to said connecting the first hardware device node to the second hardware device node.

As the Examiner is certainly aware, anticipation requires the presence in a single

prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claims. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The Office Action asserts that Yamamoto teaches all the elements of Applicant's claim 1, stating that Yamamoto teaches "a method for propagating type information for hardware device nodes in a graphical program, wherein the method operates in a computer including a display screen and a user input device", and further asserts that Yamamoto teaches "displaying on the screen a first hardware device node in the graphical program in response to user input", citing Figure 6, and col. 9, lines 7-19. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant notes that Yamamoto describes an information processing system and method for determining an appropriate output device from a plurality of output devices for a given input device, based upon device information (col. 3), e.g., entered by a user via console panels of the respective devices (col. 9, lines 7-19). Nowhere does Yamamoto teach or suggest graphical programs, and Yamamoto specifically does not teach or suggest hardware device nodes in a graphical program. Additionally, nowhere in the cited Figure 6 or passage (col. 9, lines 7-19), does Yamamoto show or describe "displaying on the screen [of the computer] a first hardware device node in the graphical program".

It appears that the Examiner has incorrectly interpreted Figures 9A and 9B as graphical programs. However, Applicant submits that the diagrams and device icons of Figures 9A and 9B are not in fact graphical programs and graphical program elements, as known in the art and described in the present application, but rather, are simply connectivity or configuration diagrams for specifying input/output relationships between devices.

The Office Action further asserts that Yamamoto teaches "associating the first hardware device node with a hardware device", citing Figure 9A, item 1). Applicant notes that, as the description of Figure 9A in col. 10, lines 37-63 indicates, the device

icons shown in the diagram of Figure 9A are already associated with respective devices. For example, the laser printer icon is already associated with a corresponding laser printer, the scanner icon is already associated with a corresponding scanner, and so forth. Additionally, the icons of Figures 9A and 9B are not graphical program nodes, and thus are not hardware device nodes for use in a graphical program. This is in contrast to the graphical program nodes referred to as hardware device nodes in Applicant's system, where a hardware device node is placed in a graphical program, and then associated with a specific hardware device in response to user input. Thus, Applicant submits that Yamamoto does not teach or suggest this feature of claim 1.

The Office Action further asserts that Yamamoto teaches "displaying on the screen a second hardware device node in the graphical program in response to user input", citing Figure 9A, item 45). For similar reasons as those provided above, Applicant respectfully submits that with respect to Figure 9A, Yamamoto does not teach or describe a second hardware device node (i.e., a graphical program node) in a graphical program.

The Office Action further asserts that Yamamoto teaches "connecting the first hardware device node to the second hardware device node in response to user input", citing Figure 9A, 9B, col. 10, lines 37-68. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant submits that while Yamamoto does teach connecting one device icon to another device icon, as shown in Figures 9A and 9B, the diagrams of Figures 9A and 9B are not graphical programs, and the device icons of Yamamoto are not hardware device nodes for use in a graphical program. Thus, Applicant submits that Yamamoto does not teach or suggest this feature of claim 1.

The Office Action further asserts that Yamamoto teaches "propagating information from the first hardware device node to the second hardware device node, wherein the information specifies the hardware device with which the first hardware device node is associated, wherein said propagating occurs in response to said connecting

the first hardware device node to the second hardware device node”, citing col. 3, lines 23-56. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The cited passage (col. 3, lines 23-56) reads:

“... the present invention provides an information processing method for an information processing system in which at least one or more input device, plural output devices and an information processing device are connected to others through a network, and the output device is designated to output data input from the input device, wherein the information processing device acquires device information of the input device and the output device, searches for the output device capable of outputting the data input from the input device on the basis of the acquired device information, and registers virtual input/output device information on the basis of the device information of the searched and detected input and output devices, and the input device acquires the virtual input/output device information, and then directly transfers the data to the output device designated by the virtual input/output device information.”

Applicant notes that in the cited passage, Yamamoto describes the information processing system acquiring “device information of the input device and the output device”, i.e., device profile information for each of the devices, and searching for the output device based on the acquired information, after which the output device is associated with the input device for outputting “data input from the input device”, by registering “virtual input/output device information on the basis of the device information of the searched and detected input and output devices”. The virtual input/output device information is then acquired by the input device, which then “directly transfers the data [i.e., data generated or output by the input device] to the output device designated by the virtual input/output device information”. Thus, in Yamamoto’s system, information indicating an I/O association between the input device and the output device is registered and acquired by the input device, and then the input device sends its data, e.g., scanned image data in the case of a scanner, to the designated output device, e.g., a printer. Thus, not only is the information different from that of claim 1, but the information of Yamamoto is communicated between the input device and the output device, as opposed

to between hardware device nodes (which will both be associated with the *same* device). Thus, Applicant submits that Yamamoto does not teach or suggest this feature of claim 1.

Additionally, Applicant notes that the icons in Figures 9A and 9B each represent a different device, and the connection made between them specifies communication of data between the two devices, e.g., from the input device (scanner) to the output device (printer). In contrast, in Applicant's system, the connection between the hardware device nodes (in the graphical program) specifies that both graphical program nodes are associated with the same device. Said another way, once the first hardware device node is associated with a specified device, and the second hardware device node is wired or connected to the first hardware device node, the second hardware device node is automatically associated with the specified device, such that when the program is executed, both nodes engage or operate with the associated device.

Thus, Yamamoto does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1, and so Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct over Yamamoto for at least the reasons provided above. Independent claims 10, 18, 26, 32, and 39 include features similar to those of claim 1, and so Applicant respectfully submits that these claims, and claims dependent thereon, are similarly patentably distinct over Yamamoto for at least the reasons provided above. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 1-40 are allowable, and respectfully requests removal of the 102(e) rejection.

CONCLUSION

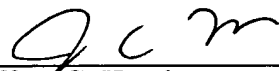
Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5150-52100/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: 12/15/2003